

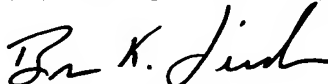
REMARKS

The Office Action of January 30, 2007 required a restriction between Group I (claims 31-35 and 45-51); Group II (claims 36-40); and Group III (claims 41-44), and Applicants have elected Group I for prosecution. Claim 41 has been recast in dependent form and it, along with dependent claims 42-44, depend ultimately from independent claim 31. It is submitted that such amendment of the claims does not introduce any new subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that claims 31-35 and 41-51 read on elected Group I. Moreover, Group II is not patentably distinct from Group I since the identical method steps are recited in each of independent claims 31 and 36. Hence, claims 36-40 (Group II) should be examined together with claims 31-35 and 41-51. Prompt favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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